

MDD - RIP

whenever you turned up
in this town
I was there
for most of my life
your music was there
energetic & flamboyant
just like you
when you walked into the men's room
at the Jazz Workshop
patting your hair & smiling
just the two of us
my big chance
you even borrowed my comb
my mind was a blank
except to ask you to play a tune
that you had left behind years before
ah well
I was only 23
& still looking outside myself for wisdom
you gave me hope
& some of your energy
I really dug your bad self
you'll always be one of my main men
bye bye Miles

SNEAK ATTACK

the old man kept bugging me
to fly down to Florida
& see his new house
I don't make much
finally in January
there was a round-trip deal I could afford
he and his wife picked me up
at Tampa International
I sat up front with him
we hadn't left the airport
when he hit me
with a one liner
that knocked me on my ass
"When I die, you'll get nothing."
I didn't know then that he had cancer
my sister didn't bother telling me
until a couple of years later
I just sat there stunned
2 1/2 years later
I was down there again
this time to help
my stepmother & sister
with my dying father

by then I didn't much care
for any of them
he received excellent care from us
true to his word
I got nothing
except his skill with the written word

MY TWIN BROTHER ON THE WEST COAST

he's 26 years older
we come from different parents/backgrounds
he's an only child
I'm a "pseudo only child"
our respective fathers were
combination pricks/assholes
I doubt if our mothers would've
crossed paths
mine is very macho
Vegas mobsters nightclubs
big time swearing
what can I say?
her father wanted a son - she obliged
getting back to my twin
all we really share is an attitude
a way of keeping severe distance
from the mainstream
I didn't pick it up from him
"Don't be anti-social, Johnny."
eat shit
it's good
to find someone on this planet
sort of like yourself
this is as close as I'll ever get
to ever letting him know about his bro
back east

CLASS

I was failing English
in my freshman year of high school
it was a frantic time in my life
my mother stepped in
got me the very best of tutors
the former head of the English Department
an old yankee
we diagrammed sentences
broke it all down
she asked me why